

1940 - Commerce And Industry - S.G. Smith, Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas County.
The Operations Of George Williams-

In 1902 George Williams of near Lobelia, Pocahontas County, W. Va bought a circular saw mill, his first operation was a set on Caesar Mountain for S.J Payne of Hillsboro who had bought a tract of timber from Sam & Sabina V. Gamely for \$175.00 and they received in payment one horse at \$125. and a buggy at \$50.00 this contract was written August 4, 1902.

325.000 was cut at this set and upon completion moved to Seebert.

His next set was also for S.J Payne and the mill was set at what was known at that time as Carter Siding which is just below Seebert, W. Va the timber having been bought from many different people of Seebert and the surrounding territory. This operation started in April 1903 and run to May 1903.

Camps were built to take care of the men and barns were built to stable the horses, as Payne had one and two teams there most of the time besides the horses of Illis McCarty of Hillsboro and K.O Wade of the Wade corner which is a section at the top of the Seebert hill.

The lumber was loaded in box cars of the C & O Railroad and shipped to many different stations, 400,000 was sawed at this set and Williams was sawyer on all of his operations.

From Seebert the mill was moved to Red Lick Mountain to saw for Smith and Whiting they having bought this tract of timber from W.H Shearer who lived on the head of Dry Creek above Onoto. In the Company were Captain A.J Smith and Jim Whiting.

There was 378 acrs in this bandary and bounded as follows starting at the head of Dry Creek thence to the Silas Barlow line then to the line of L.M Armstrong and with the line of S.B Atkins and H.O Davis and then

...to about as fast.

...and kept the ...

10/40 -Commerce And Industry-S.G. Smith,Hillsboro,W.Va.Pocahontas County.
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In 1902 George Williams of near Lobelia,Pocahontas County,W,Va bought a circular saw mill,his first operation was a set on Caesar Mountain for S.J Payne of Hillsboro who had bought a tract of timber from Sam & Sabina Vansley for \$175.00 and they received in payment one horse at \$125. and a buggy at \$50.00 this contract was written August 4,1902.

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then almost as fast.

and ending at the

Construct And Industry-S.O Smith,Hillsboro,W.Va.Pocahontas County.

----- George Williams Concluded-----

Kinnison in his carpenter work as W.W Kinnison contracted to build and
erected some of Pocahontas County's best and most expensive buildings
the were the Methodist Church at Marlinton,W.Va. The Hillsboro Gre-
School and a residence in the Kinnison Addition of Hillsboro ~~1887/1887~~ //
and the Bank Of Hillsboro Building these were all brick buildings and con-
structed by Kinnison a resident of Hillsboro and near Lebelia,so most of the
timber he bought and had axed was used by him in the construction of buildi-
ngs of some kind or other.

Information-----George Williams/~~1887/1887~~ Hillsboro,W.Va. (R F D)

Court Records, Marlinton, "

Feb. 23, 1940

Helle V. McFarland

Journalist
Clover Lick, N. Va.
Pocahontas County
May 2, 1940

Ch. 4 Section 8a - 1

During the Industrial Period (1860-1910) the people of Pocahontas County repaired and reestablished their saw mills, grist mills, tanneries, and so forth, that they had established before the Civil War, then of course there were many new ones built and many of the old ones were under new management. These, however, were all small individual businesses just as they had been before the war. No great commercial industries were begun until 1876 when the St. Lawrence Lumber and Lumber Company came into the county and began cutting the white pine, cherry and walnut and rafting it down the Greenbrier River to Rome, Ga. Since Pocahontas was so abundant in these timbers, this became a very important industry. Practically all of the lumber taken from this county during the next twenty-five years was taken out in this manner.

While it became known that Pocahontas had small deposits of iron, and some marble nothing was done to develop an industry and no mineral rights were taken.

Since agriculture and grazing were the chief occupation and there was no coal, nor enough other minerals to attract corporations there was no struggle between the land owners and corporations. The land was still in the hands of the original owners or their families and was valued only for its timber, grazing and for the timber. Even yet many farmers continued to clear their fields and to roll the logs into piles and burn them not realizing that they were destroying what would have soon been worth a fortune to them.

As soon as the railroads were completed in 1901, the county began to improve. For now, that transportation was available, lumber companies were anxious to open up this vast timber section. Lumber towns sprang up almost overnight, but when the lumbering was done they disappeared almost as fast.

so didn't find anything.

There was once a man by the name of Henry Phillips who was looking over this land in the 1790. He engaged a surveyor, William Pooge of Barlins Bottom, and surveyed 41,000 acres at the headwaters of Greenbrier River. This survey took in most of that rich timber country. About the same time a Randolph County surveyor made a survey of 31,000 acres for Richard Smythe which interfered, and lapped on the 41,000 acres.

Henry Phillips having acquired this land paid little or no attention to it, not even paying the paltry taxes. With other large surveys it lay idle and useless.

The legislature of Virginia finding that such large grants hindered development, evolved the law of forfeiture. So in the 1830's and 1840's they began to cut up these lands and sell them for the benefit of the school fund. The Phillips 41,000 acres was thus disposed of to the highest bidders. It brought \$212.00 which was about the cost of surveying and selling it.

In the 1880's there was a law suit over this land because of the surveys of Phillips and Smythe. But it seems that the Smythe surveys called for a cypress and no cypress could be found in these high mountains. The word probably should have been cippus meaning a set stone. At any rate, Pocahontas county wrested from Randolph County this large territory.

This threw to Pocahontas county a big boundary of spruce and hemlock forest country so rich in timber as to render it worthless for anything else.

On the titles based on this sale of forfeitures the land rose in value until it was worth something like \$5,000,000 in one day for the timber alone, and now that the timber has been cut is held at something like \$5.00 an acre for grazing.

In 1903-1915 when the heavy growth of timber was being operated a number of towns sprang up and flourished for a while and disappeared. Among them: Wilkell, Certude, May, Brancher, Madeline, Olive, Hida, Winterburn, Barter and Oxley. The Coal and Iron Railway. What a vision of wealth and prosperity that name once conjured. Town sprang up and drummers walked the railroad from one town to the next when the trains did not run to suit them. The above mentioned towns occupied the sixteen miles of river and railroad which lies between Durbin and where Randolph County begins at the divide.

This is now a part of the cold and barren which lies in Pocahontas. Where as it used to look stern and wild, it now looks wild and naked.

From Pocahontas Times - 1918 by Andrew Price
The above towns were only a few of the lost towns of Pocahontas. During the lumbering days towns sprang up all along the Greenbrier River and then lost their importance or ceased to exist except in name, Sitlington, Clover Lick, Harter, Campbelltown, Stillwell. This was partly after 1910, however.

West Virginia 'Writers' Project
REGISTRATION AND VERIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce And Industry Date 3/22/41
Research Worker Samuel G. Smith Date Research Taken 3/14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
1941
Typist Samuel G. Smith Date Typed 3/21, 22, /41
C.B. Curry, J.R. Guthrie & court records
Marlinton, W. Va. Date Filed
Source Jay And William Buckley, Buckeye, W. Va.
Julian Armacelle, Maxwellton, W. Va.

This Co. has all news at present therefore had to contact former
employees and information was hard to get.



Commerce And Industry. Seneca & Smith Millsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.
West Virginia Pulp And Paper Co. Cass. W. Va.

The W. Va. Pulp And Paper Co. began operation in 1900 and have
been operating practically steady since that time, the mill site was
bought from Newton J. Ginn and at that time was being farmed by him.

The W. Va. Pulp And Paper Co. was made up by and with the follow-
ing men John S. Luke of Orange, N. Y. and his sons William, now at Cov-
ington, Va. Al Luke, Charles Luke and S. E. Slaymaker and William Whitaker
of Pa. Slaymaker had the selling of all lumber.

The general manager of this co. was R. P. Shafer for a long period
and the present mgr. is S. D. Huff, R. S. Hickman was general mgr. of the
Co. and Mark McCarty was assistant store mgr. The name of the store
is The Pocahontas Supply which did an enormous business at one time as
they had as high as 20 clerks beside the other stores at Spruce and Gl-
ady Fork beside small stores at some of the coal mines.

This is a double band mill that cut about 75 to 80,000 a day when
they were operating the best of their timber, they had 18 log engines
and 3 of these were the largest Shay engines built at that time, they had
10 to 12 loaders beside the steam skidders that they used on Elk and other
sections KIXING but at one time they had 27 camps and had about 10 teams
to the camp therefore they had over 200 teams of horses or 400 head.
They had a steam shovel and a ditcher.

Their R. R. was known as The Greenbrier Cheat And Elk River R. R.

1
West Va. Pulp And Paper Co. # 2 Page. S.G. S. Pocahontas Co.
On the G.C. & E. with Robert Hivio as R R Supt. The railroad started at Cass
went up Leatherwood to Spruce and there it forked went down Cheat River near
Cheat Junction, the other fork leads to Berghoo, Slatyfork and vco, with a line
up Elk River and in on Tea Creek by way of Red Lick Mt.

The mill foremans were William Anderson and Charlie Furman, the
druggist was Harry Hill and at present store Mgr, E.C. Smith was store Mgr. at
Slatyfork, Jay Buckley was clerk at Slatyfork and run commissarys for the Co. at
different places, William Buckley worked in the store at Cheat. The wood mpts,
were Sol McGeely, Heston Payne ~~XXX~~ Judson Taylor and John (Jack) Creeksbanks,
lumber graders J.R. Guthrie and Mark Wood Gum, the postmasters have been Dr. Joe
Ayers, Lake Clark and James Moyers the present P.M., Merl Irvine conductor and
train master, George Graham was in charge of the office N.W. Fox bookkeeper and
Leona Shippard office worker, John Hannah G.C. & E. R.R. Elmer Duncan shop cl-
erk train master and office man, Joe Graves yard foreman, S.E. Hethkin run the
Company Store and operated the meat market for several years but the present
meat manager is George Trough, George Anderson was shovel man for the R R and
another George Anderson was assistant mill foreman, Yard foreman Hob Ross.

The first Company doctor was Dr. Julian Arbuckle he was one of Gre-
enbrier County, leading doctors after he left Cass, the present ^{Dr.} Dr. is Dr. U.E.
Hannah and their veterinary was Dr. F.G. Nickel.

W.Va. Pulp & Paper Co. page # 3

The following were engineers on the C.C. & E.R.R. some time or other
George Williams, Cal Bradley, George Crowder, Ben Cameron, Sam Vaughn, Frank Will-
iams, Floyd Dorman, E.C. Oilmor, Thurman Fitzwater, Pat Bradley, Charlie & Grover
Craddock, Red Stanley, C.W. Odell was train dispatcher. Frank Ives was conductor
on Cheat. James Collison was time keeper for the woods and took orders for the

I saws. The sawyers were the following men Tim Kentsley, Jess Kepner, Homer Br-
own, Ray Ott, Blackie Calhoun, Robert Blackburn, Warren Shifflet, Joe Hannah was
one of the first sawyers, and the present sawyers are Harry Miller and Oscar
Searson. Joe Woodrill is town police. Herbert Shaffer master mechanic and shop
foreman, their electric welder man is Chalmers Sneed.

The W.Va. Pulp And Paper Co. have operated over something like 110,
000 acres ^{in Grant} besides some in other counties and this acreage covered the most of
the upper end of Pocahontas County, and took in the following territory, Cass,
Back Mt., Cheat Mt., Gown Cheat River, Bergees Creek, Slatyfork, Gaulley Mt., Elk River
and to the Randolph County line and when they were operating from 1915 to 30
they employed between 2500 and 3,000 men that received from \$ 2.50 to \$ 4.60
a day (the high prices were during the war.)

Besides the Hand mill at Cass they had a pulp mill at Spruce and
they put out solid train loads of pulp that was shipped to Covington Va. to their
paper mill or to Luke Mt. to a paper mill there and on March 10, 1940 they
had a big ^{fire} ~~fire~~ at the Covington plant that destroyed several thousand dollars

worth of property and material, losing 10 million pounds of finished kraft and scrap besides the paper and two men lost their lives J.E Sterley plant Supt.and Walter F Langer mill chemist and dept.head were overcome with smoke and died of a heart attack.

During the war they had an Extract plant in the lower end of Coss at what is called the Y, and here they made ~~khaki dye~~ the supt. was A. Molton.

The population of Coss at the present time is 800 but back a few years ago it had a population of 22,00 and at that time was the largest town in Pocahontas County, Coss has about 400 EE Company houses a school for the white population also a school for the colored, 3 churches and a large hotel that would accommodate from 50 to 75 people that was under the management of Mrs. Jack Crookshanks and a Mrs. Reaster at different times they employed 4 or 5 girls and 2 cooks, besides this establishment they had private hotels and restaurants on the east side across the river, and it was on east side where the lumber hicks mostly put up and it was here that several murders were committed and was known as dirty street over here you found 2 or 3 stores a restaurant, a hotel and several privately owned houses.

The Co. had camps from Spruce to Hemle on the Western Maryland R R, most of the G.O & I R R was built by Italians and Austrians and these were known as the bohunk camps.

During their operations coal was discovered and mines were opened up on top of Gaulley Mt. between Bergees Creek and Slatyfork this mine was operated until 1940. another mine was opened up below Spruce and was called the Hopkins mine, another was the Linan mine just below the Hopkins mine, and about 1920 Big John mine and Deer Lick mines were opened up, this was about the time they were lumbering up Fishing Hawk Creek this coal was mostly used by the Co. in their trains and at the town of Cass. You find coal on many of their holdings and no doubt some day these mines will be reopened and new ones opened up.

The W.Va Pulp And Paper Company beyond a doubt had the largest operations of any Co. operating in Pocahontas Co. and today they own several thousand acres of land but have sold several thousand acres to the government for reforestation purposes, their farming operations are very extensive as they have farm lands from just outside of Cass to the Greenbank road and along Deer Creek and you find land in high state of cultivation and some of the finest barns that are found in this section of the State and in these they winter from 2 to 300 head of cattle and back a few years ago they produced over 1,000 lambs a year.

The W.Va. Pulp & Paper Co. Operations in Pocahontas County have meant more to the growth of the county than any other operation that has taken place here as they not only furnished employment to the people but have helped

erately in the way of taxation besides the towns that have sprung up
mostly Cass, Slatyfork, and Spruce besides scattered houses at these coal mi-
nes at Hopkins mine, Linan mine, Deer Lick & Big John mines, at Spruce where they
had the pulp mill you found hundreds of acres of spruce trees as this is
a cold place snow getting 2 to 3 feet deep.

During their 40 years of operating at Cass it is estimated they cut
1,126,400,000 and about the same amount of pulp wood, most of the hardwood
went to Lake Mead and it is estimated by one of their former lumber graders that
at they carried 16 million feet of lumber on the yards at a time. They had a
planing mill and put out finished surfaced lumber in the way of siding, floor-
ing and other dressed lumber that was mostly used locally in the county.

The Pocahontas Supply Co. store did a business of \$ 1200,000.00 a year
business when they were in the best of the timber and when business was good.

The mill burned in 1924 but was rebuilt at once.

Cass today is a thriving lumber town that has meant a lot to Pocahontas
County as it was a market for all the surplus farm commodities of the
surrounding territory, payed enormous taxes that helped our county schools and
government and furnished employment to thousands of her citizens this was
Pocahontas County's largest operation and the payroll of the W.Va. Pulp and
Paper Co. was the largest of any in Pocahontas. The lumbering from about 1900
to 1926 was the greatest industry in the County but since that time the oper-

Va. Pulp and Paper Co. Page 4 C.S.S.S. Richmond Co.

Mr. C. C. Smith smaller operations but the Government has bought thousands
acres of cut over land for reforestation purposes so in years to come it is
hoped the lumber industry will be better than at the present time due to the
reforesting.

The Va. Pulp and Paper Company hope to complete their operations
at Cass in 2 or 3 years the present time they are not operating in order to
furnish employment to the population of Cass.

Information - O.S. Curry, Marlinton, W. Va.

J.R. Guthrie. " "

Court Records. " "

Jay Buckley. Buckeye. W. Va.

Villiam Buckley. " "

Julian Arbuckle, Massillon. W. Va.

All the above worked for the Co. at some time or other but Arbuckle and his
father was Co. Br. for a time at Cass.

1940

Helle Y. McLaughlin
Second Ave.

West Virginia Writers' Project

REGISTRATION IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce & Industry Date 3/13/41
Research Worker Samuel G Smith Date Research Taken 3/13/41
& 3/12/41
Typist Smith Date Typed 3/13/41
Source James Farnley, Marlinton, W. Va. Date Filed _____
Court Records.

Some of the information was gotten before these dates but not completed
until above dates.



and Industry. Show L G Smith Hillsboro...Va. Pocahontas Co.
Williams and Pifer Lumber Co.

In 1917 was incorporated and L.H. Williams was Pres. and Gen Mgr.
A.C. Pifer Vice Pres. and Dr. L.G. Wilson Sec and Treas, all of Marlinton, W.
Va.

Their operations have been all over Pocahontas County and part of
Greenbrier as they operated in 1917 on Spring Creek in Greenbrier Co. this
was owned by J.L. Howard of Buckeye, and in 1920 they were operating on Lau-
rel Creek, 1917 on Elk, and in 1920 on Brushy Mt. Cummins Creek, Beaver Creek
and until 1926 they were operating in the Huntersville District but in 1929
they bought two tracts of timber from F.P. Clark totaling 810 acres and in
1930 they bought a boundary of 60 acres of the John Gay Est. on Bucks Run and
in 1931 they bought a tract of 158 acres on the Dry Fork of Stony Creek
from William D and Jesse Burgess of Laurel Creek, and since that time they
have had their circular mill set in the upper part of the town of Marlinton
and buying and trucking logs where ever they can buy any in connection with
this mill they run a planer and sell building material already surfaced and
ready for use.

When they were operating at capacity they used from 6 to 8 teams of
horses to do the skidding had a log engine and 4 or 5 log trucks when they were
operating on Laurel Creek and used from 3 to 4 trucks to haul lumber and logs.

Bert Roberts was their sawyer for quite a long time, and Alva Johnson
is the present lumber grader and has been for several years.

Beside their lumbering operations they have a large store, in which
they have their office, a general store a meat market with an experienced meat
cutter in Clarence Jordan and a winter store man assisted by hired help and be-
cause this they distribute Conoco Gasoline and oil in Pocahontas and Randolph
County, this business was all built up from their lumbering operations of the
last 14 years.

Information. James Fornity, Marlinton, W. Va.

Court records. Marlinton, W. Va.



No. : 1876

Source : Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

Society (copy)

Print located in :

file

albums

Date :

Subject :

Cass

Lumber yard

1876



No. : 1877

Source :

Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

Society

(copy)

source

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Cass
Boiler house



No. : 2571

Source : U. S. Forest Service
Elkins

Society

Original in the possession of : source
Print located in : albums file

Date : March 29, 1949

Subject :

Mower Lumber Company log pond
at mill



Source :

W. Va. U. Library

No. : 1674

Society

Original in the possession of :

Print located in :

albums

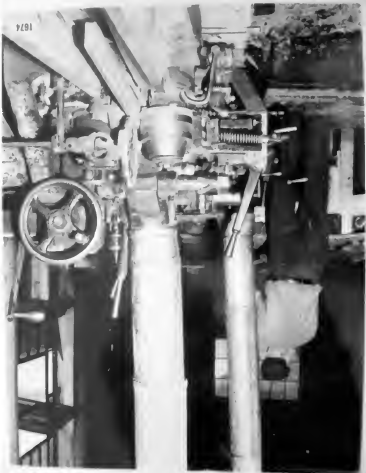
file

Date : August 7, 1946

Subject :

Mower Lumber Co

Interior view of flooring mill



No.: 1861

Source: Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

(copy)

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Cass ~~Box~~

Lumber yard



No: 1862

Source: Westvaco

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

(copy)

Print located in:

~~albums~~

file

Date:

Subject:

Cass mill, ~~then~~ view
taken from across

from the south
the river

Same as #909



No.: 1863

Source :

Westwaco

Original in the possession of :

Society

(copy)

source

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Cass

Boiler House



No. : 1869

Source : Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

(copy)

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Cass

Mill pond & mill (second mill)



No. : 1870

Source :

Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

Society

(copy)

source

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Cass.

Lumber yard



No.: 1871

Source :

Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

source

file

Print located in :

albums

Society

(copy)

Date :

Subject :

Cass
Planning mill



No.: 1872

Source :

Westvaco

Original in the possession of :

Society

(copy)

source

file

Print located in :

albums

Date :

Subject :

Cass
Original will

Lumber Dock, Cass, W. Va.

1525



No.: 1526

Source:

Mrs Fred Bell
Buena Vista
Virginia

Original in the possession of:

source

Print located in:

albums

file

Date: Postmark 11/9/08

Subject:

W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co., Cass
View of mill and part of dam
across the Greenbrier River

Society (Postcard)

1526



No. : 1560

Source :

Mrs. Opal Small

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date : 1921

Subject :

View of W. Va. Pulp & Paper Company
Cass mill. Taken from east side
river. Pictures shows present boiler
house under construction and original
shop building



No.: 1664

Source:

W. Va. Collection
W. Va. U. Library

Original in the possession of:

Society

Print located in:

albums

file

Date: August 7, 1946

Subject:

Cass mill interior view of Carriage &
hand saw

L-R: Bill Simmons, Oliver Tyson, ?

Mr Simmons sawed the last log on July



No.: 1667

Source:

W. Va. Collection
W. Va. U. Library

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

file

Date:

~~September 1946~~ August 7, 1946

Subject:

Mower Lumber Co.

Kill pond & log cars

No.: 1668

Source:

W. Va. Collection
W. Va. U. Library

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

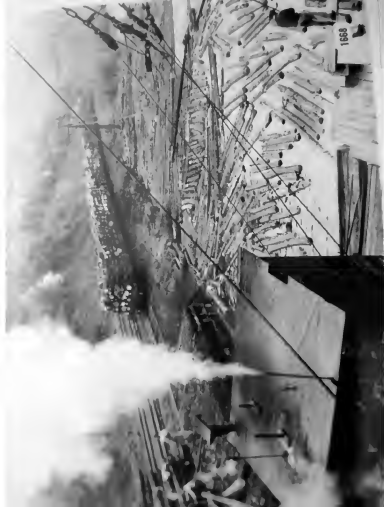
file

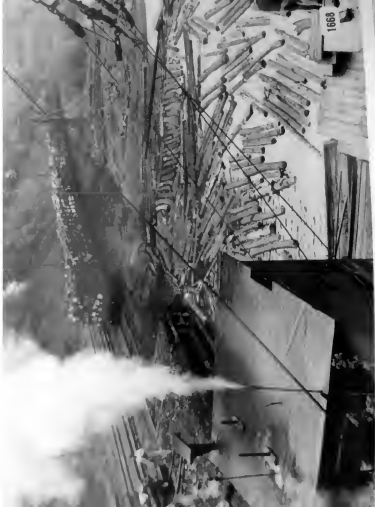
Date: May 20, 1946

Subject:

Mowen Lumber Co

Log pond & log cars





No.: 1669

Source :

W. Va. Collection
W. Va. U. Library

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date: August 7, 1946

Subject :

Mower Lumber Co

Interior view of mill

L-R: Alex Duncan, Sherlin Lambert, Cam
Ware



No.: 1672

Source:

W. Va. Collection
W. Va. U. Library

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

file

Date: August 7, 1946

Subject:

Mower Lumber Co

Interior view of ~~wood~~ flooring mill

L-R: Arthur White, Marvin Moss



No.: 1673

Source:

W. Va. Collection
W. Va. U. Library

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

file

Date: August 3, 1946

Subject:

Mower Lumber Co.

Interior view of mill showing logs
log chain

Ben Jackson in photo

No. : 1059

Source : Everett Walford

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

W Va. Pulp and Paper Co mill pond
and original railroad shop

1059

W. M. ESTES & SONS, JR. & CO. - GEORGETOWN, N. C.



No. : 1087

Source : Allen Blackhurst

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Scene taken in W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co
foundry

1087





No. : 1278

Source :

Mrs Ica Sharp

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

W. U. Pulp & Paper Co sawmill, Cass

Original mill

Saw and Planing Mills, Cass, W. Va.



1278

No. : 1309

Source :

John Killoran

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

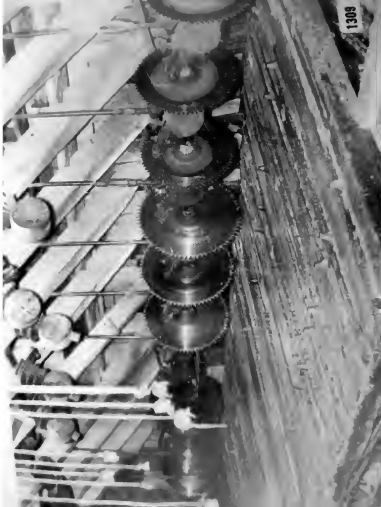
albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Resaws in W. G. Pulp & Paper Co in
at Cass



No.: 1347

Source:

Mrs Leonard Cutlip

Original in the possession of:

Society

Print located in:

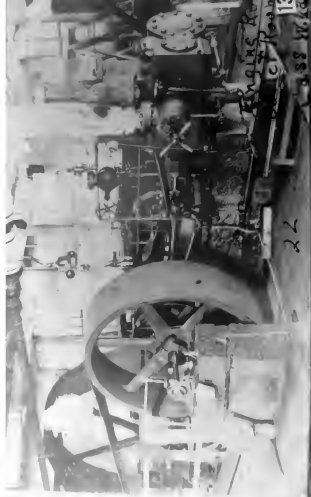
albums

file

Date:

Subject:

Engine room, Cass mill
W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co.



Engines Room
C. F. Roob

22

1888

No.: 1348

Source: Mrs Leonard Cutlip

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co mill ruins
Following fire on February 24, 1922

1348



No.: 15-12

Source:

Mrs Fred Wells
Buena Vista, Virginia

Original in the possession of:

source

Print located in:

albums

(file)

Date: Postmark March 14, 1908

Subject:

W. Va. Pump & Paper Co mill
Cass

Society

(Post)



Mill, W. Va., Spruce Lumber Co., Cass W. Va.

No.: 1525

Source:

Mrs Fred Bell
Buena Vista
Virginia

Original in the possession of:

source

Print located in:

albums

file

Date: Postmark: 7/11/08

Subject:

View of Lumber Dock
W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co mill, Cass

Society (Postcard)

No. : 862

Source :

Mrs. E. P. Shaffer

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Lumber on mill dock at Cass

W Va. Pulp & Paper Co



No. : 909

Source :

Mrs. E. P. Shaffer

Original in the possession of :

Society

Print located in :

file

Date :

Subject :

Cass, view of planing mill

source

albums

No.: 911

Source:

Mrs E. P. Shatter

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

file

Date:

Subject:

W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co Lumber yard

Cass



116



No.: 912

Source:

Mrs E. P. Shattuck

Original in the possession of:

Society

Print located in:

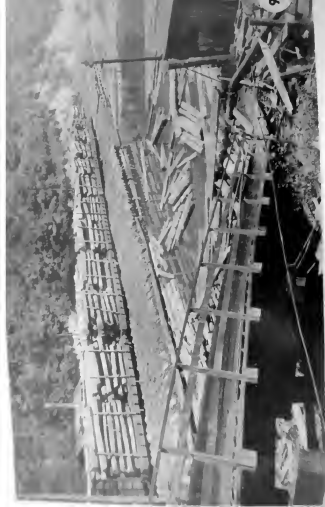
albums

file

Date:

Subject:

Mill pond, Cass mill, W. Va. Paper Co Six loaded log cars shown
photo.



No.: 913

Source: Mrs E. P. Shaffer

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

file

Date:

Subject:

Lumber yard, W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co.,



No.: 914

Source :

Mrs E. P. Shaffer

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Loaded log cars along side mill pond
at Cass mill, W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co



No. : 986 Source : Levi Graftford

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

Ruins of W. L. Pulp & Paper Co
mill following fire on February 24, 1925



No: 987

Source: Levi Galford

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

file

Date:

Subject:

Photo of machinery ruined in W. Va
Pulp & Paper Co Cass mill fire on
February 24, 1922



No.: 339

Source: Mrs Forrest Woodder

Original in the possession of:

Society

Print located in:

albums

file

Date: 1921 or 1922

Subject:

Cass

View up Leatherbark Creek - shows part
of mill, mill pond, original shop &
present shop under construction



No.: 348

Source:

Mrs Forrest Woodde11

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

file

Date:

Subject: Cass

W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co. saw & planing
mills Sawmill is the original
mill.

Saw and Planing Mills, Cass, W. Va.



No: 425-

Source:

Lillian Johnson

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

file

Date:

Subject:

Views of mill of W. Va Pulp and
Paper Co at Cass

Picture taken from the north and
shows first mill and boiler house



TEXAS PULP & PAPER CO'S MILL
GAS VAL

No. : 519

Source :

Ivan Clarkson

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date : October 4, 1923

Subject :

Cass - view of mill from across
the river



City Water Works
Jan. 6, 1914

No. : 527

Source :

Iwan Clarkson

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date : 1940

Subject :

File room at Cass mill, W. C.
Pulp & Paper Co



Source :

No. : 561

No. : 561 Source : Ivan Clarkson

Original in the possession of :

Society

Print located in :

file

Date :

Subject :

W. W. Pulp & Paper Co

View of planing mill & power house



Keller

Source :

Society

source

file

Original in the possession of :

albums

Print located in :

Date : February 1922

Subject :

View of W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co. Co.
mill following fire on February

1922

No. : 688



No. : 857

Source : L. B. Byrd

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date :

Subject :

W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co.

Original planing mill at Cass



Mass Mill &

Shor

WEST VIRGINIA PULP & PAPER CO.

Cass Mill &
Shop

No. 319

Source: Mrs Markwood Gum

Original in the possession of:

source

Society

Print located in:

albums

~~file~~

Date: February, 1922

Subject:

W. Va Pulp & Paper Co Cass mill

Following fire on February 24, 1922



1086



1085





No.: 526

Source :

Ivan Clarkson

(same as # 1086)

Original in the possession of :

source

Society

Print located in :

albums

file

Date: Spring 1925

Subject :

Shop crew, W. Va. Pulp & Paper Co

see # 1086 for names



W.Va. Pulp & Paper Co. page # 3

The following were engineers on the C.C. & E.R.R. some time or other
George Williams, Cal Bradley, George Crowder, Ben Cameron, Sam Daugh, Frank Will-
iams, Floyd Dorman, E.C. Gilmore, Thurman Fitzwater, Pat Bradley, Charlie & Grover
Cradock-Red Stanley, C.W. Odell was train dispatcher. Frank Ince was conductor
on Cheat. James Collison was time keeper for the woods and took orders for the

I saws. The sawyers were the following men Tim Kinsale, Jess Kepner, Homer Br-
own, Ray Ott, Blackie Calhoun, Robert Blackburn, Warren Shifflet, Joe Hannah was
one of the first sawyers, and the present sawyers are Harry Miller and Oscar
Searson. Joe Woodkill is town police. Herbert Shafer master mechanic and shop
foreman, their electric welder man is Charles Shrader.

The W.Va. Pulp And Paper Co. have operated over something like 110,
000 acres ^{George} besides some in other counties and this acreage covered the most of
the upper end of Pocahontas County, and took in the following territory, Cass,
Back Mt. Cheat Mt. Gown Cheat River, Bergee Creek, Slatyfork, Gaulley Mt, Elk River
and to the Randolph County line and when they were operating from 1915 to 30
they employed between 2500 and 3,000 men that received from \$ 2.50 to \$ 4.60
a day (the high prices were during the war.)

Besides the hand mill at Cass they had a pulp mill at Spruce and
they put out solid train loads of pulp that was shipped to Covington Va. to the
paper mill or to Luke Mt to a paper mill there and on March 10, 1940 they
had a big ^{fire} ~~fire~~ at the Covington plant that destroyed several thousand dollars

worth of property and material, losing 10 million pounds of finished kraft and scrap besides the paper and two men lost their lives J.E. Sterley plant Supt. and Walter F. Langer mill chemist and dept. head were overcome with smoke and died of a heart attack.

During the war they had an Extract plant in the lower end of Cass at what is called the Y, and here they made khaki dye the supt. was A. Molton.

The population of Cass at the present time is 800 but back a few years ago it had a population of 22,000 and at that time was the largest town in Pocahontas County, Cass has about 400 E.E. Company houses a school for the white population also a school for the colored, 3 churches and a large hotel that would accommodate from 50 to 75 people that was under the management of Mrs. Jack Crookshanks and a Mrs. Easter at different times they employed 4 or 5 girls and 2 cooks, besides this establishment they had private hotels and restaurants on the east side across the river, and it was on east side where the lumber hicks mostly put up and it was here that several murders were committed and was known as dirty street over here you found 2 or 3 stores a restaurant, a hotel and several privately owned houses.

The Co. had camps from Spruce to Hemlock on the Western Maryland R.R., most of the O.C. & I.R.R. was built by Italians and Austrians and these were known as the bohunk camps.

During their operations coal was discovered and mines were opened up on top of Gauley Mt. between Bergoe Creek and Slatyfork this mine was operated until 1940. another mine was opened up below Spruce and was called the Hopkins mine, another was the Linnan mine just below the Hopkins mine, and about 1920 Big John mine and Deer Lick mine were opened up, this was about the time they were lumbering up Fishing Hawk Creek this coal was mostly used by the Co. in their trains and at the town of Cass. You find coal on many of their holdings and no doubt some day these mines will be reopened and new ones opened up.

The W.Va Pulp And Paper Company beyond a doubt had the largest operations of any Co. operating in Pocahontas Co. and today they own several thousand acres of land but have sold several thousand acres to the government for reforestation purposes, their farming operations are very extensive as they have farm lands from just outside of Cass to the Greenbank road and along Deer Creek and you find land in high state of cultivation and some of the finest barns that are found in this section of the State and in these they winter from 2 to 300 head of cattle and back a few years ago they produced over 1,000 lambs a year.

The W.Va. Pulp & Paper Co. Operations in Pocahontas County have meant more to the growth of the county than any other operation that has taken place here as they not only furnished employment to the people but have helped

greatly in the way of taxation besides the towns that have sprung up
mostly Cass,Slatyfork,and Spruce besides scattered houses at these coal mi-
nes at Hopkins mine, Linan mine, Deer Lick & Big John mines,at Spruce where they
had the pulp mill you found hundreds of acres of spruce trees as this is
a cold place snow getting 2 to 3 feet deep.

During their 40 years of operating at Cass it is estimated they cut
1,126,400,000 and about the same amount of pulp wood,most of the hardwood
went to Lake Mead and it is estimated by one of their former lumber graders that
at they carried 16 million feet of lumber on the yards at a time.They had a
planing mill and put out finished surfaced lumber in the way of siding,flo-
oring and other dressed lumber that was mostly used locally in the county.

The Pocahontas Supply Co.store did a business of \$ 1200,000.00 a year
business when they were in the best of the timber and when business was good.

The mill burned in 1924 but was rebuilt at once.

Cass today is a thriving lumber town that has meant a lot to Pocahon-
tas County as it was a market for all the surplus farm commodities of the
surrounding territory,payed enormous taxes that helped our county schools and
government and furnished employment to thousands of her citizens this was
Pocahontas County's largest operation and the payroll of the W.Va.Pulp and
Paper Co.was the largest of any in Pocahontas.The lumbering from about 1900
to 1926 was the greatest industry in the County but since that time the oper-

W. Va. Pulp and Paper Co. Page 4 of 5. Pocahontas Co.

have been smaller operations but the Government has bought thousands
acres of cut over land for reforestation purposes so in years to come it is
hoped the lumber industry will be better than at the present time due to the
reforesting.

The W. Va. Pulp and Paper Company hope to complete their operations
at Cass in 2 or 3 years the present time they are just operating in order to
furnish employment to the population of Cass.

Information-O. S. Curry. Marlinton. W. Va.

J. E. Guthrie. " "

Court Records. " "

Jay Buckley. Buckeye. W. Va.

Villiam Buckley. " "

Julian Arbuckle. Marlinton. W. Va.

All the above worked for the Co. at some time or other but Arbuckle and his
father was Co. Dr. for a time at Cass.

Helle Y. McLaughlin
Second Ave.

West Virginia Writers' Project
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce & Industry Date 3/13/41
Research Worker Samuel O Smith Date Research Taken 3/13/41
 & 3/12/41
Typist Smith Date Typed 3/13/41
Source James Fomey, Warlinton, W. Va. Date Filed 3/13/41
 Court Records

Some of the information was gotten before these dates but not completed until above dates.



and in W. Va. Shows L.G. Smith Hillsboro...Va. Pocahontas Co.
Williams And Pifer Lumber Co.

In 1917 was incorporated and L.H. Williams was Pres. and Gen. Mgr.
A.G. Pifer Vice Pres. and Dr. L.S. Wilson Sec. and Treas. all of Marlinton, W.
Va.

Their operations have been all over Pocahontas County and part of
Greenbrier as they operated in 1917 on Spring Creek in Greenbrier Co. this
was owned by J.L. Howard of Buckeye, and in 1920 they were operating on Lau-
rel Creek, 1917 on Elk, and in 1920 on Brushy at Gummings Creek, Beaver Creek
and until 1926 they were operating in the Huntersville District but in 1929
they bought two tracts of timber from F.P. Clark totaling 810 acres and in
1930 they bought a boundary of 60 acres of the John Gay Est. on Bucks Run and
in 1931 they bought a tract of 158 acres on the Dry Fork of Stony Creek
from William D. and Jessie Burgess of Laurel Creek, and since that time they
have had their circular mill set in the upper part of the town of Marlinton
and buying and trucking logs where ever they can buy any in connection with
this mill they run a planer and sell building material already surfaced and
ready for use.

When they were operating at capacity they used from 6 to 8 teams of
horses to do the skidding had a log engine and 4 or 5 log trucks when they were
operating on Laurel Creek, and used from 3 to 4 trucks to haul lumber and logs.

Bert Roberts was their sawyer for quite a long time, and Alva Johnson
is the present Lumber grader and has been for several years.

Beside their lumbering operations they have a large store, in which
they have their office, a general store a meat market with an experienced meat
cutter in Clarence Jordan and winter store men assisted by hired help and be-
cause this they distribute Conoco Gasoline and oil in Pocahontas and Randolph
County, this business was all built up from their lumbering operations of the
last 14 years.

Information, James Forty, Marlinton, W. Va.
Court George, Marlinton, W. Va.

Concrete And Industry-S.G Smith,Hillsboro,W.Va.Pocahontas County.

----- George Williams Concluded-----

Kinnison in his carpenter work as W.W Kinnison contracted to build and
constructed some of Pocahontas County's best and most expensive buildings
among the were the Methodist Church at Marlinton,W.Va. The Hillsboro Gra-
nd School and a residence in the Kinnison Addition of Hillsboro ~~1887/1888~~ //
and the Bank Of Hillsboro Building these were all brick buildings and con-
structed by Kinnison a resident of Hillsboro and near Lobelia,so most of the
timber he bought and had used was used by him in the construction of build-
ings of some kind or other.

Information-----George Williams/~~1887/1888~~ Hillsboro,W.Va. (R F D)

Court Records, Marlinton, "

Feb. 23, 1940

Mella V. McT...

Franklin D. ...
Clover Lick, W. Va.
Pocahontas County
May 2, 1940

Ch. 4 Section 5a - 1

During the Industrial Period (1860-1910) the people of Pocahontas County repaired and reestablished their saw mills, grist mills, tanneries, and so forth, that they had established before the Civil War, then of course there were many new ones built and many of the old ones were under new management. These, however, were all small individual businesses just as they had been before the war. No great commercial industries were begun until 1876 when the St. Lawrence Lumber and Lumber Company came into the county and began cutting the white pine, cherry and walnut and rafting it down the Greenbrier River to Romcaverte. Since Pocahontas was so abundant in these timbers, this became a very important industry. Practically all of the lumber taken from this county during the next twenty-five years was taken out in this manner.

While it became known that Pocahontas had small deposits of iron, and some marble nothing was done to develop an industry and no mineral rights were taken.

Since agriculture and grazing were the chief occupation and there was no coal, nor enough other minerals to attract corporations there was no struggle between the land owners and corporations. The land was still in the hands of the original owners or their families and was valued only for its timber, grazing and for the timber. Even yet many farmers continued to clear their fields and to roll the logs into piles and burn them not realizing that they were destroying what would have soon been worth a fortune to them.

As soon as the railroads were completed in 1901, the county began to improve for now, that transportation was available, lumber companies were anxious to open up this vast timber section. Lumber towns sprang up almost over night, but when the lumbering was done they disappeared almost as fast.

so didn't find...

There was once a man by the name of Henry Phillips who was looking over this land in the 1790. He engaged a surveyor, William Pooge of Barlins Bottom, and surveyed 41,000 acres at the headwaters of Greenbrier River. This survey took in most of that rich timber country. About the same time a Randolph County surveyor made a survey of 31,000 acres for Richard Smythe which interfered, and lepped on the 41,000 acres.

Henry Phillips having acquired this land paid little or no attention to it, not even paying the paltry taxes. With other large surveys it lay idle and useless.

The legislature of Virginia finding that such large grants hindered development, evolved the law of forfeiture. So in the 1830's and 1840's they began to cut up these lands and sell them for the benefit of the school fund. The Phillips 41,000 acres was thus disposed of to the highest bidders. It brought \$212.00 which was about the cost of surveying and selling it.

In the 1880's there was a law suit over this land because of the surveys of Phillips and Smythe. But it seems that the Smythe surveys called for a cypress and no cypress could be found in these high mountains. The work probably should have been cippus meaning a set stone. At any rate, Pocahontas county wrested from Randolph County this large territory.

This threw to Pocahontas county a big boundary of spruce and hemlock forest country so rich in timber as to render it worthless for anything else.

On the titles based on this sale of forfeitures the land rose in value until it was worth something like \$5,000,000 in one day for the timber alone, and now that the timber has been cut is held at something like \$5.00 an acre for grazing.

In 1903-1915 when the heavy growth of timber was being operated a number of towns sprang up and flourished for a while and disappeared. Among them: Wilkell, Certude, May, Brancher, Madeline, Olive, Hida, Winterburn, Barner and Oxley. The Coal and Iron Railway. What a vision of wealth and prosperity that name once conjured. Town sprang up and drummers welked the railroad from one town to the next when the trains did not run to suit them. The above mentioned towns occupied the sixteen miles of river and railroad which lies between Durbin and where Randolph County begins at the divide.

This is now a part of the cold and barren which lies in Pocahontas. Where as it used to look stern and wild, it now looks wild and naked.

From Pocahontas Times - 1918 by Andrew Price
The above towns were only a few of the lost towns of Pocahontas. During the lumbering days towns sprang up all along the Greenbrier River and then lost their importance or ceased to exist except in name, Sitlington, Clover Lick, Harter, Campbelltown, Stillwell. This was partly after 1910, however.

REPLICATION REPORT

Subject Communist And Industry Date 3/22/41

Research Worker Samuel G. Smith Date Research Taken 3/14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21
1941

Print Samuel C Smith Date Typed 3/21, 22, /41

C.B. Garry, J.R. Guthrie & court records
Marlinton, W. Va. Date: 11/1/54

Source Marlington, W. Va. Date Filed 1/28/51 1945

Jay And William Buckley, Buckeye, W. Va.
Julian Arbuckle, Maxwelton, W. Va.

This Co. has all news at present therefore had to contact former
employees and information was hard to get.



Counters And Industry. Secor 1 G Smith Hillsboro. E. Va. Pocahontas Co.
West Virginia Pulp And Paper Co. Case. E. Va.

The E. Va. Pulp And Paper Co. began operation in 1900 and have
been operating practically steady since that time, the mill site was
bought from Newton J Ginn and at that time was being farmed by him.

The E. Va. Pulp And Paper Co. was made up by and with the follow-
ing men John S Luke of Orange, N. Y and his sons William, now at Cov-
ington, Va. Al Luke, Charles Luke and S. E Slaymaker and William Whitmer
of Pa. Slaymaker had the selling of all lumber.

The general manager of this co. was E. P. Shafer for a long pe-
riod and the present mgr. is S. D. Huff, R. S. Hickman was general mgr. of the
Co. and Mark McCarty was assistant store mgr. The name of the store
is The Pocahontas Supply which did an enormous business at one time as
they had as high as 20 clerks beside the other stores at Spruce and Sla-
ty Fork beside small stores at some of the coal mines.

This is a double band mill that cut about 75 to 80,000 a day when
they were operating the best of their timber, they had 16 log engines
and 3 of these were the largest Shay engines built at that time, they had
10 to 12 loaders beside the steam skidders that they used on Elk and oth-
er sections KIXING but at one time they had 27 camps and had about 10 teams
to the camp therefore they had over 200 teams of horses or 400 head.
They had a steam shovel and a ditcher.

Their R R was known as The Greenbrier Cheat And Elk River R R

1
St. Louis Pulp And Paper Co. # 2 Page. S.O. S. Pocahontas Co.
On the G.O. & E. with Robert Hivio as R.R. Supt. The railroad started at Cass
went up Leatherwood to Spruce and there it forked went down Cheat River near
Cheat Junction, the other fork leads to Bergees, Slatyfork and vco, with a line
up Elk River and in on Tea Creek by way of Red Lick Mt.

The mill foremen were William Anderson and Charlie Furman, the
druggist was Harry Hill and at present store Mgr, E.O. Smith was store Mgr. at
Slatyfork, Jay Buckley was clerk at Slatyfork and run commissarys for the Co. at
different places, William Buckley worked in the store at Cheat. The wood mpts,
were Sol McNeely, Heston Payne, H.E. Judson Taylor and John (Jack) Crookshanks,
Lumber graders J.R. Guthrie and Mark Wood Gun, the postmasters have been Dr. Joe
Ayres, Lake Clark and James Moyers the present P.M., Merl Irvine conductor and
train master, George Graham was in charge of the office R.W. Fox bookkeeper and
Leona Sheppard office worker, John Hannah G.O. & E. R.R. Elmer Duncan shop cl-
erk train master and office man, Joe Graves yard foreman, S.E. Hethkin run the
Company farm and operated the meat market for several years but the present
farm manager is George Trough, George Anderson was shovel man for the R.R. and
another George Anderson was assistant mill foreman, Yard foreman Hob Ross.

The first Company doctor was Dr. Julian Arbuckle he was one of Gre-
enbrier County, leading doctors after he left Cass, the present Dr. is Dr. U.E.
Yamash and their veterinary was Dr. F.G. Nickel.

Construct And Industry-S.G Smith, Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas County.
George Williams Operations Concluded.---

the Gibson line, this tract was formerly owned by the Lynch Lumber Co.

This timber was deeded to Smith And Whiting March 21, 1906, they paid \$1700.00 for the boundary from which they sawed 400,000 feet of boards there was two sets. Upon completion of this operation Williams moved his mill back to the Little Levels District and over Caesar Mountain to his next set.

The 4th set was for J.E Peck on the farm known at that time as the Dr. J.D Thrasher farm and deeded by him to J.E and Effie Peck July 9, 1903.

The mill was set just under the top of Caesar Mountain on the Peck place and ready for operation, Peck had a team and did part of the skidding but he hired Harry and Frank Thompson of Millpoint to do part of the skidding.

John Boblett of Lobelia had the misfortune of having his hand cut off by the edger on this operation leaving him a cripple the rest of his life.

This operation took place in 1906 & 07 and they sawed 416,000.

#5-- The next set was for S.J Payne and took place on top of Caesar Mountain at the Dick Anderson farm and purchased from his widow Sally Anderson the farm is now owned by Wilford Bruffey.

This was operated in 1906 and 75,000 was sawed at this set.

#6-- In 1906 George Williams sawed two sets for S.J Payne on Rush Run the timber was bought from Ambrose Hill of *near Lobelia*.

#7-- In 1906 & 07 Williams sawed for W.W Kinnison on Bruffey's Creek part of this timber was logged from Kinnison's own farm the rest he bought from near by farmers.

#8-- In 1907 George Williams set his mill on the Cass McCoy farm on Bruffey's Creek and sawed a set for W.W Kinnison. Kinnison having bought what timber there was on the McCoy farm which when sawed was used by ~~the mill~~ *for the mill*.

about as fast.

Don't read anything much written on the